

City/County Coordination Meeting

Meeting Notes

May 2, 2016

Attendees:

Council: City Commissioners Donald Sydnor, and Gage Thomas, County Councilman Ricky Travers, and Don Satterfield

Staff: County Manger Jeremy Goldman, Oden C. Wheeler Jr., Director DPW City of Cambridge

Location: County Office Building at 4:00pm

1. **Economic Development Director (EDD):** City & County both have vacancies.
 - a. County is looking at its current job description and exploring what they want to do.
 - b. Councilman Satterfield asked whether the City & County each need an EDD, or could we combine the efforts and have a separate board to manage a combined EDD, with members appointed by each agency? For example, 2 members could be appointed from each the City and County, and one Council person from each agency, or something like this. Mr. Goldman, indicated that he and City Manager Ms. Tripp Jones have been exploring this idea. Mr. Goldman expressed that if this were to proceed, it is his opinion that to organize it correctly would take about 18 months, and asked what would we do in the meantime.
2. **Maces Lane (old school):** County is drafting a Letter of Understanding with the Bondservants to lease the property from the County. Back taxes to be paid through the lease will take approx. two years of lease payments to cover all the back taxes. It was discussed that the County and the City could accept payment of back taxes from the lease payments proportional to the normal property tax allocation between the City and County.
3. **Hearn Building Update:** Mr. Goldman reported that the engineering plans had been revised, concrete was poured on Thursday (April 28th). Custom Welding will be on site on Thursday or Friday weather permitting, if not first of next week. If they are done on Friday County will move barriers, as soon as City approves to do so. City will assist on clean up, relocate fence, etc. If weather prohibits this week, the schedule will be shifted, and opening will happen as soon as contract or done.
4. **Cambridge Cemetery:** County owns two vacant lots next to the cemetery that could they be used for expansion that could be sold. Councilman Satterfield thought the City owned the cemetery but Mr. Wheeler informed him that it is a separate corporation. Mr. Wheeler informed them that he thought the board members are: President of the County Council, the City Commissioner for the ward in which the cemetery is located, and the Clerk/Treasurer. However, he would research and report back.

5. **Burger King Property Demolition:** Mr. Wheeler presented that an RFB had gone out, that bids were due by Wed May 4th, hopefully that the Council would make an award of contract on May 9th, then issue a letter to proceed.
6. **Rt. 16 Roundabout:** State has awarded contract, approx. for \$3.1 million. MUC was relocating a water line.
7. **Blighted Properties:** Mr. Goldman said that the County had approx. 100 properties on which they had foreclosed from tax sales, and for which they had received bids to purchase. Depending County Council action on Tuesday evening if they vote to sell the ones for which bids have been received, they hope to reduce that number to approx. 35 remaining properties. Mr. Goldman presented that on this date there are approx. 1,200 properties that are 2 years in arrears on their taxes, property liens, etc., and that notices were mailed today informing the property owners that if not paid, their properties will be going to tax sale. From past experience they anticipate this number to shrink to approx. 800 by the time of the actual sale in June.

Being no further discussion meeting concluded at 5:25pm.